

UNIVERSAL, HIGH QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN.

— President Barack Obama, State of the Union Address ■ Feb. 12, 2013

This comes on the heels of San Antonio residents approving a **1/8 cent sales tax** that will support San Antonio's Pre-K 4 SA initiative.

Additionally, The Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program and The Rockefeller Foundation named the City of San Antonio's Pre-K 4 SA initiative a "*Top 10 State and Metropolitan Innovations to Watch in 2013*." The distinction highlights the top ten initiatives around the country that show the most promise for creating jobs, growing regional economies, and boosting global competitiveness in the coming year.

The Pre-K 4 SA initiative was developed in 2011, when San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro convened a blue ribbon task-force to identify the most effective method for improving the quality of education in San Antonio. *The Brainpower Task-force* recommended the development of a program focused on high-quality Pre-K services for four-year-old children which studies show have the most impact in improving overall education outcomes for a community.

There are approximately 5,700 four-year-old children living in San Antonio who are eligible for State funded Pre-K but currently are not enrolled in a full day Pre-K program. Of that total, an estimated 2,300 eligible four-year-old children currently are not enrolled in any Pre-K program while 3,400 are enrolled in half-day programs in the City of San Antonio.

On **Nov. 6, 2012**, residents voted "**yes**" for the initiative and showed their support for the Pre-K 4 SA Program that will use revenue generated by a local sales tax rate increase to provide high-quality, full-day Pre-K for eligible four-year-olds in San Antonio. The 1/8 cent sales tax equates to less than \$8 a year for a household of median income in San Antonio.

The program aims to improve the educational trajectory of more than 22,400 four-year-old children over an eight-year period while benefitting thousands more by training area school teachers, teacher's aides, community Pre-K providers, and education leaders.

PRE-K 4 SA PURPOSE & GOALS

- TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PRE-K) CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLDS CITYWIDE;
- TO REDUCE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS BY AT LEAST 25 PERCENT IN LANGUAGE, 33 PERCENT IN MATH, AND 90 PERCENT IN LITERACY WHEN COMPARED TO KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE EDUCATION CENTERS;
- BY 3RD GRADE, TO HELP ENSURE THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR STUDENTS FROM THE EDUCATION CENTERS HAS BEEN CLOSED BY AT LEAST 10 PERCENT ON THE STAAR READING AND MATH ASSESSMENTS;
- TO REACH A 20 TO 40 PERCENT REDUCTION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT AND GRADE RETENTION; AND
- TO PROVIDE ROBUST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PRE-K THROUGH THIRD-GRADE EDUCATORS.

There will be four Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers strategically located in easily accessible locations in San Antonio—two Education Centers will open in the first program year (August 2013) and two additional Centers will open in the Program's 2nd year (August 2014). At full enrollment, the Education Centers will educate 2,000 children per year with high quality Pre-K programs. Each Education Center will initially serve 350 students annually and build up to full annual enrollment of 500 children while maintaining a student to teacher ratio of two teaching professionals per 20 children, which will be better teacher to student coverage than what is commonly found in most Pre-K classrooms throughout the City. Children in the Education Centers will benefit from master teachers and a curriculum to be developed on established best practices in early childhood education.

In addition to directly educating 2,000 four-year-old children per year, the Education Centers also will provide professional development and training to teachers, teacher aides, community Pre-K providers, and education leaders throughout San Antonio. This professional development will include both summer in-service training and the opportunity to shadow master teachers in the Education Center classrooms during the school year. These programming opportunities are intended to increase the quality of Pre-K education throughout the City and to maintain the expected gains the children achieve by supporting teachers and educators from Pre-K through third grade.

Workshops also will be offered to parents and community providers that will include training and advice on how to best help the children in their care. Additionally, the Education Centers will provide a robust parent support component.

Area school districts, charter schools, non-profit education providers and private schools will be able to submit applications for competitive grant awards that will increase the quality of existing Pre-K service or allow for newly-created opportunities for four-year-old children. These grant awards will begin in the fourth year of the program, August 2016, and it is anticipated that Pre-K 4 SA will benefit 1,700 children annually through the competitive grant programs.




While the guidelines for the competitive process are still being developed, the goals of the grants include increasing the number of four-year-olds served within high-quality Pre-K programming; increasing the amount of time spent in the classroom for children currently served in half-day Pre-K; or increasing teacher aides in classrooms in order to decrease the student teacher ratio resulting in an increase in the quality of education.

There will be training in the field. A staff of teachers will be available to mentor in Pre-K classrooms throughout the City in order to observe a teacher in their home classroom environment and offer advice and mentoring. These teaching mentors will provide the teachers with opportunities for feedback and will evaluate the implementation of their improvement plan.

The initiative will be for an eight-year period and will be subject to voter re-authorization in November 2020 and is being governed by a City Council appointed 11 member board of directors. City Council will provide fiduciary oversight for the initiative to include approval of the program's annual budget. The initiative includes annual performance audits and assessments to measure success that will be conducted by independent third-party entities.

For more information, visit www.sanantonio.gov/pre-k4sa.

Service Model

Service	Year 1: 2013 2014	Year 2: 2014 2015	Year 3: 2015 2016	Year 4: 2016 2017	Year 5: 2017 2018	Year 6: 2018 2019	Year 7: 2019 2020	Year 8: 2020 2021
 Initial Two Model Centers	700	800	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
 Additional Two Model Centers		700	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
 Competitive Grants in ISDs & Partner Programs				1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Total Served	700 children	1,500 children	1,700 children	3,700 children	3,700 children	3,700 children	3,700 children	3,700 children
Served at Model Centers through Sliding Scale Tuition (10% of Model Centers)	70	150	170	200	200	200	200	200

Three- Year Ramp Up

Five-Year Academic Assessment at Full Capacity

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- Over eight years, Pre-K 4 SA will consist of an initial three year build-up impact and five years of full enrollment and program evaluation. In years four through eight, 3,700 children would be enrolled annually. The initiative will educate a projected 22,400 four-year-old children over the initial eight year period.
- Enrollment will be free of charge for students who meet at least one of the State eligibility criteria. A four year-old is eligible if they or their families are:
 - eligible for free or reduced lunch (is at 185% of the federal poverty level); or
 - unable to speak and comprehend the English language; or
 - homeless; or
 - the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States; or
 - the child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who was injured or killed while serving on active duty; or
 - is or has been in foster care.
- Free for those that meet one of the eligibility criteria and live in one of the following participating districts: Edgewood, Harlandale, North East, Northside, San Antonio, South San Antonio, & Southwest.
- Four Education Centers will open during the initiative's first two program years. Beginning in year four, the Education Centers will educate 2,000 four-year-old children annually in a high-quality program with class rooms having no more than 20 students per two teaching professionals (one teacher and one teacher aide).
- Ten percent of enrollment at the Education Centers will be made available to children who do not fall within the State eligibility criteria. These families will pay varying levels of tuition based upon their income.
- Enrollment for the Education Centers will be chosen through an objective lottery system.
- The Education Centers will be strategically located in four different quadrants of the City and will be conveniently located near major highways. Each Education Center will be approximately 50,000 square feet consisting of classrooms, family support rooms, teacher training areas and playgrounds.
- In the 2016-2017 school year, Pre-K 4 SA will offer competitive grants to school districts, charter, private parochial schools, and community providers to offer full day and/or enhanced Pre-K services for approximately 1,700 four-year-old children annually.